

# Regional Development News & Notes



March 2002

Edited by Glenn Coppelman, Regional Development Coordinator



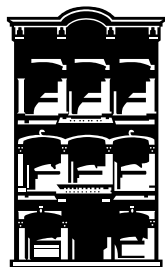
NH Office of State Planning / 2 ½ Beacon Street / Concord, NH 03301

<http://webster.state.nh.us/osp/cdbg>

603-271-2155 (voice) 603-271-1728 (fax)

## Downtown Initiative

OSP, CDFA, NHHFA and DRED have launched a cooperative *pilot program* to address the vacant commercial spaces and abandoned upper floor housing in NH downtowns. The vision of the Downtown Initiative is to spawn regeneration of downtown areas, with particular attention given to architecturally and historically significant buildings. RDCs planning to participate in this program should make note of the following dates:



- Press Release Announcement – February 15, 2002
- Training Workshop: March 1, 2002
- Pre-Applications due 4:00pm, March 29, 2002
- Initial agency review meeting April 10, 2002

Check out the Web site for more/updated information:  
<http://www.nhhfa.org/downtown/index.htm>

## OSP/RDC Director's Meeting REMINDER

*The Q-1 OSP/RDC Director's Meeting is coming up soon. March 14<sup>th</sup> is the date; 9:00am is the start time; and Center Conway at the Tech Village Business Center is the location. Look forward to seeing you there!*



## NH Economic Review

Public Service of New Hampshire has issued its annual statistical economic review of New Hampshire. The 2001 edition contains a wealth of economic data on New Hampshire, as well as comparative data from other states. It's a great snapshot of our economic condition, and a valuable resource for statistical information. If you did not receive a copy in the mail, you can request one by calling Pat McDermott (PSNH) at 800-490-7764.



Public Service  
of New Hampshire

## SB 177 UPDATE

RE: Tax Increment Computation



This Bill (designed to modify the computation of tax increments to include the new State School Tax) pertaining to TIFs has passed the Senate. It is now in the Municipal and County Government Committee at the House. The next Hearing is scheduled for:

**March 13, 2002**

**10:00am**

**Room 301**

**Legislative Office Building  
Concord, NH**

## ***Building Entrepreneurial Networks:***



[www.ncoe.org/research](http://www.ncoe.org/research)

### **Executive Summary**

“If there’s one thing that nearly all entrepreneurs want and need, it’s the opportunity to network with their peers and share new ideas and war stories. This was as true in the old economy as it is in today’s economy. After all, the Lion’s Club and Rotary Club are not just about charity; they generate business contacts as well. The need for such networking is probably even greater today. More people are starting businesses or at least dreaming about doing so, and the number of existing small businesses is near all-time highs. These new or aspiring entrepreneurs can learn on the job, or they can learn from the best teachers of all; other entrepreneurs. Local entrepreneurship networks offer the most effective path for this kind of shared experience.

Networks aren’t just good for individual businesses; they help promote ***regional economic growth*** as well. Regions with strong networks for entrepreneurs tend to have stronger track records in terms of new business starts and fast-growing businesses. Communities seeking to encourage local entrepreneurship should consider policies and programs that help create and nurture support networks for entrepreneurs.”

*continued* ➡

## **Did You Know?**

(things to ponder, or not, when solving the economic development needs of NH)



- A chicken will lay bigger and stronger eggs if you change the lighting in such a way as to make the day 28 hours long. (lesson: Often the end *does* justify the means).

This National Commission on Entrepreneurship (NCOE) report, ***Building Entrepreneurial Networks*** (full text can be found at [www.ncoe.org/research](http://www.ncoe.org/research)) provides a “how-to guide” on building entrepreneurial networks for entrepreneurs, community leaders, policy makers, and others. The report is based in part on case studies of five organizations – in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Idaho, Oklahoma, and Texas – which have succeeded in seeding or supporting such networks. Using these case studies and additional research, the report details how and why local business networks help nurture entrepreneurship. Next, it offers practical tips on how to start and grow such networks. It concludes with a review of best practices linked to general experience with entrepreneurial networks and is highlighted by five detailed case study examinations.”

The report says that networks not only help entrepreneurs themselves, they also offer advantages for the wider local community. Both theory and practice point to several concrete benefits from networks:

***Brokering.*** Formal networks can offer important brokering roles, making introductions and linkages between entrepreneurs and resources.

***Creating Common Perspectives.*** Networks provide a vehicle for aggregating and projecting the voice of small entrepreneurs.

***Fostering Cultural Change.*** Networks may help promote cultural change that is often necessary as communities transition to a new economy.

***Creating Civic Leaders.*** Networks help nurture and mobilize private sector leadership.

***Branding.*** Networks help “brand” a region by sending a message that a community supports entrepreneurs and desires their presence in the region.

***Regional Competitiveness.*** Highly networked regions are also highly competitive regions. Networks help reduce barriers to entry for business starts, because they provide critical knowledge on how to start new firms.